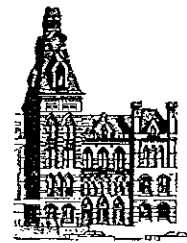




John DeStefano, Jr.  
Mayor

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**Testimony of the City of New Haven  
Commerce Committee**

*Regarding*

S.B. No. 1130 AN ACT MAXIMIZING JOBS FOR STATE WORKERS BY REQUIRING PLANS  
OF LOCAL HIRING BY CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES.

S.B. No. 1133 AN ACT CONCERNING PREFERENCES FOR CONNECTICUT COMPANIES IN  
STATE AND MUNICIPAL CONTRACTING

*Submitted by*

Rebecca Bombero, Deputy Chief of Staff  
City of New Haven  
March 19, 2013

Sen. LeBeau, Representative Perone and members of the committee. The City of New Haven would like to express support for SB 1130 and SB 1133 which are intended to increase the number of local workers on State-funded construction projects. The City takes a passionate interest in this issue given the socio-economic makeup of the community and the many large scale construction projects recently completed or now underway within New Haven.

At a local level, New Haven's Commission on Equal Opportunity (CEO) has the responsibility to review, monitor and enforce the equal opportunity, affirmative action and contract compliance laws as they apply to contractors and subcontractors doing business with the City, including the hiring of local residents. CEO was created in 1964 and is the nation's oldest municipal civil rights agency. CEO's contract enforcement division has established a standard of compliance with contractors in New Haven with success rates over 38% minority, 25% resident and 9% female EEO participation. Since 2005 more than 3,760 residents have worked on local school construction projects earning \$23 million in wages. Paired with our Construction Workforce Training Program this locally grown pool of labor provides a multiplier benefit since these workers spend a significant portion of their earnings in the local economy. Given the high unemployment rate, which now stands at 11.3% (and 3.5% higher than the state average), this is a critical time to broaden our impact and implement best practices on State construction projects here in New Haven.

SB 1130 would mirror local affirmative action hiring plan requirements creating plans for local hiring. This goal is admirable, however, based upon our experience we urge the committee to include both strong penalties for non-compliance and a mechanism for inspection and enforcement.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter of critical importance.